

☐ UNCLASSIFIED☐ CIA INTERNAL
USE ONLY☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

RI/AN

NO.

CHIEF, EE/G

DATE

22 DEC 55

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

REC'D

FWD'D

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

O'BLEY, DR. CURT

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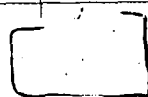
10.

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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ABSTRACT	X	INDEX
DATE 17 AUG 1957		

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KI/PI

22 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: CI/OA

SUBJECT: Dr. Curt HLEY (C-43081)

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Chief, CI/OA to Chief, EE/Germany
dated 10 November 1955

1. Above reference defers action on the request for Subject's Provisional Operational Approval pending the receipt of Field traces and more details regarding Subject's future use.

2. Following pertinent Field traces were received subsequent to Reference:

a) FRAN 3876 (IN 18082) quotes HRLA-13524, 12 April 1955. The latter dispatch calls HLEY a ZIPPER source but cannot answer the question whether casual, witting or unwitting.

A HICOG Biographical sketch lists Subject as a member of the German Embassy, ⁴me, in March 1941 and of the German Legation, Copenhagen, in November 1941. He was a member of the German Armed Forces from 1943 to 1945.

The same cable lists HLEY as a leading member of the German section of NSDAP.

A legal contact of the German Station advises that HLEY is a prominent defense attorney in criminal press cases. He practices before the German High Court and is well recommended by his clients.

b) HRLA-16434, dated 1 November 1955. This dispatch repeats information previously reported, that Subject, believed to be a reliable SPD member, was a close friend of Dr. JOHN and became a lawyer through the latter's help. In May 1950 it was reported that Dr. GRIMME negotiated with HLEY concerning GRIMME's (sic) starting to work for HFE. (In the opinion of this Headquarters case officer, this is an incorrect translation of the original German document and should read "HLEY's starting to work for HFE").

c) FRAN 4254 (IN 36040), mentions HRLA-10897 of September 1954. This is a ZIPPER report quoting a ZIPPER source Gunther SIEHP, a former SS Hauptsturmfuhrer, now of Hamburg, that HLEY was a close friend of Dr. Otto JOHN who helped HLEY to become a lawyer.

d) FULL 2140 (IN 29623), comments on paragraph 2 of FRAN 4254 explaining the reference to HLEY in HRLA-10897. In FOD's opinion SIEHP prepared a list of JOHN's contacts at ZIPPER's specific request. There was, however, a chance that SIEHP had previously tipped HLEY to ZIPPER as

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potential agent material.

a) HNSA-27336, dated 14 November 1955, transmits a detailed report by the Principal Agent of HILLER on Subject's background. Since this report is written in German pertinent abstracts are herewith listed (so far as the information had not previously been submitted).

Subject has been married several times; he is presently married to Hilde HERT, nee HILLER, who owns a dress shop in Hamburg. The Principal Agent has known Subject since 1940 when HERT contacted the former through some Quaker Friends in Berlin and brought him together with persons in opposition to Hitler. HERT at that time belonged to a group of emigrants within the German Foreign Service.

After 1945 the P/A renewed his acquaintance with Subject who meanwhile had become assistant editor in chief of the newspaper DIE WELT. HERT was an SPD member and was on good terms with some SPD leaders including the Bremen mayor KAHNER. Since HERT supported the KRC campaign and also wrote pro-Adenauer articles he subsequently relinquished the SPD card, (in 1954/5) was urged by the Hamburg SPD leadership to resign from this party. Since that time he has not been a member of any political party.

Subject has an excellent reputation as a lawyer. He is the counsel for the press chief of the CDU Fraction and for big industrial organizations. He is in good standing with labor unions.

f) HNSA-26813, dated 20 October 1955 contains biographical data. Copy is attached.

g) FILE 2536 (IN 33928) again comments on HERT's alleged relations to JOSE and on possible KRPER connections cited in FILE 2676 (IN 38082). JOSE assumes that HERT's reported friendship with JOSE was merely a part of the JOSE data submitted by SHRP and was without special significance except perhaps in KRPER eyes as a mildly derogatory evaluation. JOSE further believes that HERT was not clipped to KRPER as a potential agent.

h) HNSA-71376, dated 24 November 1955 contains CIO traces. The following pertinent information is abstracted:

Subject was listed as a 20 July 1944 phot associate of JOSE against HILLER. (P-2). In August 1939 HERT contacted the British Labour Party in an early effort to align opposition against HILLER. HERT was arrested by the Gestapo in April 1943 and later released. (P-6).

i) FILE 2562 (IN 34661), information copy received by CI/OA. The allegation that Subject was connected with a "Hans Kapeller" veteran can not be further explained and commented on at present. Since FILE 2562

obviously refers to FBI's previous report HIA-1614, (see paragraph 2 b above) the Headquarters case officer believes that the reported HIRSH-HEI connection is too vague as to allow any valid conclusions.

2. Your request for more details on Subject's future was forwarded to the Field. FBI's answer is contained in HIRH-27705, dated 23 November 1955, copy of which is attached.

3. Subject was retained by the P/A of HIRSH in early October in order to represent HIRSH and its key personnel in pending law suits. Cable traffic shows that this indicates the necessity for close case officer control of HIRSH in order to avoid mistakes and fires involving Subject. The request for a FOA was submitted solely to permit direct case officer contact and thus to safeguard CIA's interests in Subject's legal activities on behalf of HIRSH.

4. For reasons stated in paragraph 3 above, request for FOA is herewith resubmitted. An early reply would be appreciated.

[] Case Officer

[] Chief, ES/O

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